

transporting means including a robot arm provided with means for engaging a top one of said discs at the loading position, transporting the disc to the play position, centering and rotatably retaining the disc in a centered relationship at the play position; and wherein said transporting means includes a cam and clutch assembly for rotating said robot arm between said loading and play positions.

42. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 41, wherein said centering and retaining means includes means for resiliently retaining said disc.

43. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 41, wherein said centering and retaining means includes means for magnetically retaining said disc.

44. A digital disc reader or writer comprising:
means for rotating at a reading or writing position an individual disc capable of containing digital information;
means at a loading station for receiving a plurality of discs in a stacked relationship; and
means for engaging a top one of said discs at said loading station at or near the center thereof and transporting said disc to said reading or writing position for rotation by said rotation means, said engaging means being operative to center and retain said disc for rotation at said reading or writing position and said engaging means rotating with said disc; and wherein said transporting means includes a robot arm.

45. A digital disc reader or writer comprising:
means for rotating at a reading or writing position an individual disc capable of containing digital information;
means at a loading station for receiving a disc to be read or written; and
transporting means including a robot arm provided with means for engaging a disc at said loading station at or near the center thereof and transporting said disc to said reading or writing position for rotation by said rotating means, said engaging means being operative to center and retain said disc for rotation at said reading or writing position and said engaging means rotating with said disc; and wherein said robot arm is driven from said loading station to said reading or writing position and said transporting means includes cam member to raise and lower said robot arm.

46. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 45, wherein said centering and retaining means includes means for resiliently retaining said disc.

47. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 45, wherein said centering and retaining means includes means for magnetically retaining said disc.

48. A digital disc changer comprising:
a play station having means for reading information recorded on a digital disc;

a loading station; and
a transport mechanism having means for lifting a disc at the loading station, transporting it to the play station by rotating the disc about an axis and lowering the disc at the play station along a path parallel to said axis, wherein said transport mechanism includes a carousel.

49. A digital disc changer comprising:
a loading station having means for receiving a digital disc to be played;
a play station having means for reading information recorded on a digital disc;
a discard station for receiving a digital disc from the play station; and
transporting means for transporting a digital disc from the loading station to the play station and from the play station to the discard station, the transporting means including means for raising said disc to a raised position at said loading station and transporting the disc to the play station and lowering the disc to a lowered position at the play station and means for lowering said disc from said raised position to an intermediate position during transport thereof between stations and means associated with each station for registering said transporting means with each associated station when said disc is in the intermediate position.

50. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 49 wherein said transporting means includes a robot arm.

51. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 49 wherein said transporting means includes a carousel.

52. A digital disc changer comprising:
means at a play position for playing back information recorded on a digital disc; and
means for transporting a disc from a first position to the play position and then to a second position, said transporting means including means for sequentially lifting the disc from said first position, transporting the disc to the play position, lowering the disc at the play position, lifting the disc from the play position, transporting the disc to the second position and lowering the disc at the second position, wherein said transport mechanism includes a carousel.

53. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 52 wherein said transporting means includes driving and driven members in engagement with each other to form a clutch and the raising and lowering means includes cam means whereby relative movement between the driving and driven members is translated by the cam means into a raising and lowering of the transporting means.

54. A digital disc changer as recited in claim 52 wherein said transporting means includes a rotatable cam.

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